

Exhibit A  
Annotated Copy of Amendment to the Specification

**Page 1, lines 4-8**

This application is a divisional of U.S. Application No. 09/254,114 filed February 25, 1999, which is the U.S. national phase under 35 USC §371 of International Application No. PCT/US97/15233 filed August 27, 1997, which was published in English under PCT Article 21(2) on March 5, 1998 as International Publication No. WO 98/08775. This application claims [priority to U.S. provisional application no.] the benefit under 35 USC §119(e) of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/024995, filed August 29, 1996. The contents of U.S. Applications Nos. 09/254,114 and 60/024,995 and International Application No. PCT/US97/15233 are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties. The invention relates to stepper lens from fused silica having low compaction under high energy irradiation, particularly adaptable for use in photolithography applications at wavelengths of 193 and 248 nm.

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Exhibit B  
Annotated Copy of Amendment to Claims 2-4

2. (amended) A method for producing a fused [Fused] silica stepper lens which is resistant to compaction when exposed to high intensity excimer radiation [ , said lens being made by a process] comprising the steps of:

- (a) preparing a solution which contains at least one silicon-containing organic compound having the formula  $[Si(OR)_4]$   $Si(OR)_4$  or  $SiR(OR)_3$ , where R is an alkyl group;
- (b) polymerizing the silicon in the solution to form a  $SiO_2$  gel;
- (c) drying the gel at a rate which causes the gel to fragment into granules having a mean particle size less than about one millimeter;
- (d) sintering the granules at a temperature less than about  $1150^\circ C$ , the density of the granules after sintering being approximately equal to their maximum theoretical density;
- (e) forming a green body from the sintered granules;
- (f) drying and partially sintering the green body in a chamber by
  - (i) raising the temperature of the chamber to above about  $1000^\circ C$ , and
  - (ii) introducing chlorine gas into the chamber and/or subjecting the chamber to a vacuum and/or purging the chamber with an inert gas; [and]
- (g) fully sintering the green body in a chamber by raising the temperature of the chamber to a temperature above about  $1720^\circ C$ , while purging the chamber with helium or applying a vacuum to the chamber;  
and
- (h) producing the stepper lens using the fully sintered green body formed in step (g).

3. (amended) The method [Stepper lens] according to claim 2 wherein the process includes the additional step after step (g) and before

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step (h) of hot isostatic pressing the fully sintered green body in [to] a chamber by raising the temperature of the chamber to above about 1150°C and introducing an inert gas into the chamber at a pressure above about 100 psig.

4. (amended) The method [Stepper lens] according to claim 2 wherein the solution of step (a) contains tetraethylorthosilicate having the formula  $\text{Si}(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_4$ .

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